

the soil, who fled for safety to Fort Gibson, until that post sheltered no less than six thousand of the refugees. The latter had brought back with them supplies and material for agricultural pursuits, which fell into the hands of Stand Watie and his followers. At the termination of the war a general council meeting was convened at Fort Smith, which was attended by delegates from the tribes west of Ninety-eight, as well as those of the five civilized tribes. They were met by United States Commissioners, who, on the part of the government, proposed various measures for their future. The commission, however, refused to recognize John Ross as a proper representative of his people, as his record had been such as to excite a want of confidence. The meeting broke up without the accomplishment of any business, and nothing was done until June 13th, 1865, when the United States concluded a treaty with the Southern Cherokees, represented by E. C. Boudinot. This party acknowledged the freedom of the negro, but refused to adopt him in the tribe. In August, 1866, a treaty was ratified with the Ross party, or loyal Cherokees, not, however, until the commission had agreed to recognize John Ross in his official character of principal chief.

The termination of the war was fraught with misery for many of the wretched followers of Stand Watie. The loyal party, as soon as they returned to their allegiance in 1863, passed an act of council confiscating all property (houses and stock included) belonging to the Southern refugees, who were living in the greatest destitution on the banks of the Red River. Before a reconciliation was brought about, the proposition was seriously considered of securing a home for Watie and his followers in the Chickasaw Nation, but the death of Ross, which took place at Washington, August 1, 1866, moderated the party feeling, and they finally returned to dwell among their people. Of John Ross, it may be safely said that he was incorruptible, since he had been chief of his nation for forty successive years and died without leaving to his family